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me in that and help me as much as possible. Then it will be easy. One Member need not speak on every Bill. The parties themselves —when I say parties, I mean the Whips—should arrange the names and it will be a great help to the successful working of the House. This is an occasion not for discussing all these things. I have made a note of every suggestion made by hon. Members.

I must not forget my great friend, Mrs. Clubwala, who insisted that more women must be put on Committees. Mary knows that I am the greatest friend of the lady Members of this House and I will do everything possible to put as many lady Members on the Committees as possible. But they must understand it is not in my gift. Names are given to me and I announce them as my own. (Laughter.) I shall certainly make a note and see that more and more ladies are put on the Committees.

Once again, I must thank you. I am very grateful to you and I appreciate your goodness towards me. All Members, including new Members, have paid me compliments, which shows their large-heartedness, and I would request them all to give the same co-operation during the period I preside here in future. I feel I have a right to expect co-operation from you. A majority of the Members, except the new Members, are my personal friends and I have got the greatest regard and respect for them.

I thank the hon. Members once again for this great honour they have done me; it is not an ordinary honour, it is the biggest honour, I have ever received in my life and I shall always remember that. Thank you very much.

The House will now adjourn and meet again at 3 p.m.

The House then adjourned.

(After lunch—3 p.m.)

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair.)

III.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Madras State and Subordinate Services Rules

* 11 *Q.*—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have amended the Madras State and Subordinate Services Rules stipulating that persons to be recruited to Government service should possess an adequate knowledge of Tamil;

(*b*) if so, whether any representations have been received that it affects those whose mother tongue is not Tamil; and

(*c*) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

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THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) : (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative.

(c) The representations are under consideration.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Is the Hon. the Leader of the House aware that for the last one year or rather since the amendment was made, all those persons, who have applied for appointment and whose mother-tongue is Urdu or Telugu or Malayalam, have been told that they cannot be recruited to Government service and that their applications are not entertained by the various Governmental agencies?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The matter has got to be examined in its several aspects. The Government have not yet been able to come to any definite conclusion with regard to the qualifications to be prescribed. But I do not think that there is such a serious situation as represented by the hon. Member. We have said that a person, who has acquired knowledge in Tamil up to the high school course, and who is able to speak, read and write Tamil, will be deemed to have knowledge of Tamil or, if he is in Government service, he should pass the Second-class Language Test in Tamil. Therefore, Sir, I do not think that any serious hardship is caused at present.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : The matter might not be a serious one to those who are on the Treasury Bench, but it is a serious matter for those unfortunate boys who have suddenly been confronted with this order. Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that the applications of persons whose mother-tongue is not Tamil to the Madras Public Service Commission or to the Electricity Board or to any other Governmental agency have been rejected in the first instance itself, let alone the question of their being recruited afterwards?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, such a thing is possible. I only said that the number of cases was not very large. The Government are giving their most anxious consideration to this matter.

DR. V. K. JOHN : May I ask this question, Sir? What is the mother-tongue of a person who speaks, reads and writes Tamil very well but whose mother's language is not Tamil?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I do not know wherefrom the hon. the Deputy Leader of the Opposition got that impression. The mother's language need not necessarily be Tamil.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : While I admit the fact that we are one with the Government in regard to the policy that Tamil should be the official language of the State, were not the Government aware of the fact that during the transitory period certain difficulties would be caused to those whose mother-tongue was not Tamil?

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THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The Government were fully aware of the difficulties caused and they were trying to minimise them. All that I said was that the matter was still under consideration and that a decision would be taken very soon.

SRI S. T. ADITYAN : Sir, how is the proficiency in Tamil assessed for those people whose mother-tongue is not Tamil? Is it with reference to the minimum qualification of S.S.L.C. or by any other test?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, by any one of these. A person who has acquired knowledge in Tamil in his high school course or a person whether the mother-tongue is Tamil or not who is able to speak, read and write Tamil or a person who has passed the Second-class language test in Tamil is qualified.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Government be pleased to reconsider the applications that have been rejected by the various departments of the Government in view of the fact that the Hon. Minister has been kind enough to tell us that even after recruitment, they can pass the examination in Tamil?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, that applies to persons who are in Government service or who are transferred or promoted to higher service. So far as new recruits are concerned, they must pass the Second-class language test in Tamil.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware that even last year the boys who appeared for examinations and who were otherwise qualified, except for the fact that they did not possess sufficient knowledge of Tamil, have not been recruited to the clerical services and that their number is more than two hundred?

THE HON SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, it is the realisation of that fact that makes the Government consider this. That is why I said that the matter was under consideration.

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI : Do not the Government feel that even students are taken unawares by this Government Order.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I entirely agree that there is a little hardship, but the Government have to consider all aspects of the matter. It is not a question of one language but of several languages. That was why I said that the matter was under consideration.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : What is the remedy for those people whose mother1tongue is not Tamil if they want to get into Government service in the first instance?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, they should acquire knowledge of Tamil up to the high school course. Otherwise, they will not be eligible.

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Sri A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR : சென்னை ராஜ்யத்திலே தமிழ் மொழி ஆட்சிமொழியாகச் செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஆட்சி மொழியாகச் செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறதனால், தமிழிலே போதிய அறிவும், பழக்கமும் வேண்டுமென்று அரசியலார் வற்புறுத்துவார்களா?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : ஏதாவது ஓரளவுக்குத் தமிழ் தெரிந்திருக்கவேண்டுமென்பதற்குக் காரணமே சில இலாகாக்களில் எல்லாம் அரசாங்க நடவடிக்கைகள் தமிழில் நடப்பதுதான். ஆகவே, சரியாக எழுதுவதற்கும், புரிந்துகொள்வதற்கும் தமிழ் தெரிய வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகிறோம்.

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Is the Hon. Minister aware of this factor also that whereas persons who know Malayalam or Telugu can go to the neighbouring States for employment, those who know Urdu have to go over to Kashmir alone?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I am not so sure that members of the Madras State are so welcome in other States merely because they know the languages of those particular States.

Sri S. T. ADITYAN : Sir, when one declares that one's mother-tongue is Tamil or when a Muslim declares that he can speak, read and write Tamil, is he further subjected to any test?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, the point is this. Whether his mother-tongue is Tamil or not, he should be able to read, write and speak Tamil.

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : I may make a submission, Sir. Since this matter is an important one, a half-hour debate may be allowed on this.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : The answers to the main question and the supplementaries have furnished ample information and I think there is no need for a half-hour debate.

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : In spite of this, hon. Members are not satisfied, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : I should like to know the views of the Hon. the Leader of the House in the matter.

The Hon Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not think I have anything more to add. If I have information with me, I would certainly place it before the House. A half-hour debate now may not be very useful. The hon. Member may revive this question some time later when probably we will be able to give more information.

Dr. A. SREENIVASAN : I want to put only one more supplementary question. Supposing a person has become a graduate.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : It is a hypothetical question. The hon. Member begins his question with the word ' Supposing '.

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : What happened to my request for a half-hour debate, Sir? Is that rejected?

Mr. CHAIRMAN : The request is not granted.